

Message Text

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TAGS. OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 23, 1974

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FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: THURSDAY MORNING PAPERS REPORT TWO ISSUES BLOCK
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT -- SIZE OF UN BUFFER ZONE AND TROOP
LIMITATION. AFTERNOON WIRE SERVICES SAY KISSINGER WILL DE-
CIDE AFTER MEETING WITH ASSAD WHETHER TO PRESENT NEW PROPO-
SAL TO END IMPASSE AND WHETHER ANOTHER SHUTTLE NECESSARY.

1. NYT ABOVE FOLD PAGE 1 GWERTZMAN STORY, "TWO ISSUES SAID
TO DELAY TROOP-SEPARATION ACCORD," REPORTS SIZE OF UN
BUFFER FORCE AND TROOP LIMITATION HOLD UP COMPLETION OF
AGREEMENT. HAK EXPECTS RETURN TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND
BUT POSSIBILITY REMAINS FOR DELAYED DEPARTURE. SENIOR
AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS AMERICANS MUST JUDGE WORTH OF STAY-
ING. HAK SAYS SYRIAN TALKS CONTINUED REVIEW OF ALL DETAILS,
WILL RETURN TOMORROW FOR LONG, DECISIVE SESSION. AMERICAN
OFFICIALS SAY AGREEMENT WRAP UP INDEFINITE.

SECOND GWERTZMAN ARTICLE PAGE 3, "KISSINGER'S OPTIMISM IS A
SOMETIME THING," DISCUSSES HAK'S DETERMINATION FOR MIDDLE
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COURSE BETWEEN OPTIMISM AND GLOOM. GWERTZMAN NOTES HAK'S

CHANGING MOOD AND APPARENT UPSET OVER OPTIMISTIC ARTICLES IN AMERICAN PRESS. REPORTERS NOW TREAT MOODS WITH OWN BRAND OF CAUTION. FILLER STORY PAGE 3 NOTES HAK ASKS EGYPT'S HELP TO REMOVE DISENGAGEMENT OBSTACLES. INCLUDES PIX KISSINGER, EBAN, MCCLOSKEY AND SISCO.

2. POST STORY BELOW FOLD, PAGE 1, BY BERGER, "TWO ISSUES SNAG GOLAN AGREEMENT," ALSO STRESSES LACK OF AGREEMENT ON TWO ISSUES FOR SEPARATION OF FORCES. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS PARTIES FAR APART ON NUMBER OF UN TROOPS. US OFFICIALS SAY UNCLEAR WHETHER TWO SIDES PLAYING DIPLOMATIC "CHICKEN," CAUTION BREAKTHROUGH COULD COME SUDDENLY OR NOT AT ALL. BERGER REPORTS HAK DEPARTURE PLANS FLEXIBLE IF AGREEMENT IS IMMINENT, SAYS STAYING ON MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR HAK, WHO MAY INVITE BOTH SIDES TO WASHINGTON FOR "TECHNICAL TALKS." SENIOR US OFFICIALS SAY HAK HESITANT TO SUBMIT AMERICAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL; SYRIA MAKES CLEAR DESIRE FOR AGREEMENT, IF REACHED, SIGNING PROBABLY IN GENEVA WITHIN 2-3 DAYS.

3. O'LEARY ARTICLE STAR PAGE 8, "2 HURDLES BLOCK GOLAN ACCORD," HAS LEAD SIMILAR TO GWERTZMAN AND BERGER STORIES. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS GOING IS SLOW BUT HEADWAY BEING MADE. HAK PLANS BREATHER IF NO AGREEMENT THIS TRIP. SENIOR US OFFICIAL BRIEFS REPORTERS ON AGREEMENTS REACHED AND ON SYRIAN OBJECTIONS.

4. GLOBE ARTICLE BELOW FOLD PAGE 1, "TROOP REDUCTION, UN FORCE SIZE POINTS OF DISPUTE IN MIDEAST TALKS," LEADS WITH HAK MAKING PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS AND OFFICIALS CAUTIONING AGAINST "OVER OPTIMISM" ON AGREEMENT BY TOMORROW. OFFICIALS SAY FINAL WRAPUP OR POSTPONEMENT BOTH POSSIBLE. SENIOR OFFICIAL REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT, BUT DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN PARTIES. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY TROOP REDUCTION MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE, REMAINING PROBLEMS SERIOUS. OFFICIALS SUGGEST CAUTIONARY APPRAISAL MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF PRESENT STAGE. OFFICIAL INDICATES EXTENDED SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY DISSIPATES HAK'S EFFECTIVENESS.

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5. MONITOR HAS NO STORIES TODAY.

6. AP (SCHWEID) REPORTS HAK SAYS HE MAY BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT DURING CURRENT MISSION. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS KISSINGER WILL DECIDE AFTER ASSAD MEETING WHETHER PRESENT US PROPOSAL CAN END IMPASSE. OFFICIAL ALSO SAYS HAK WILL MAKE FINAL SHUTTLE IF CHANCE FOR SUCCESS.

7. UPI COVERS SECRETARY'S 10TH SHUTTLE TRIP (SAME AS AP) IN ARTICLE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS FIGHTING. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK WILL DETERMINE WHETHER AMERICAN PLAN HAS CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED AFTER ASSAD MEETING, ANOTHER SHUTTLE TRIP POSSIBLE.

8. FYI: NYT HENRY TANNER ARTICLE FROM CAIRO DATED MAY 22 REPORTS ALI AMIN, WHO REPLACED HEYKAL AS CHIEF OF AL AHRAH, ANNOUNCED IN HIS DAILY COLUMN THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO MOVE OVER TO THE MASS-CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER AL AKHBAR. MR. AMIN WILL CONTINUE TO WRITE HIS COLUMN. HIS POST AT AL AHRAH IS EXPECTED TO BE FILLED BY AHMED BAH-EDDIN.

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